



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	Mar 28, 2024
EXPIRATION DATE:	Apr 29, 2024
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-1993-00087-M11 APMA 9016
WATERWAY:	Aloha Creek

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this public notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the project manager's email as listed below or to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Tyler Marye at (907) 753-753-5778, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Tyler.J.Marye@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Drew Miller, Taiga Mining Company, Inc., P.O. Box 113108, Anchorage, AK 99504.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 20 & 21, T. 10 N., R. 15 E., Kateel River Meridian; Latitude 66.2446° N., Longitude 155.6917° W.; near Hogatza, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is the economic recovery of placer gold resources within the Aloha Creek Drainage.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is proposing to discharge 50,000 cubic yards of fill into a total of 11.4 acres of waters of the U.S.(WOTUS), including wetlands, in order to conduct placer mining activities at two locations in the Aloha Creek drainage. The first location (Right

Limit Below 15) would have 3.9 acres of wetland impacts and the second location (Right Limit: Little S-Curves) would have 7.5 acres of WOTUS impacts. Specifically, the discharges in WOTUS would include mechanized land clearing, temporary relocation of the access road, stockpiling of materials, construction of settling ponds, and reclamation activities. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated February 14, 2024.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant has submitted their application for permits to mine in Alaska (APMA 9016) and has their Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System authorization (AKG370226).

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The applicant states that through mineral exploration by drilling methods has provided a mine plan that avoids unnecessary impacts to wetland areas that do not contain economic gold deposits, by limiting the boundaries of the area to be worked to only those that are currently economical.

b. Minimization: The applicant states that site preparation and clearing operations would minimize the impacts to wetland areas by using available upland areas for stockpiles and material storage whenever possible.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant states that they do not propose compensatory mitigation because impacts are expected to be temporary and that reclamation efforts would be designed to provide a ratio greater than one for the reestablishment of aquatic resources within the project area.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on the review of AHRs there are no known cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the direct footprint of the fill to be discharged and the uplands immediately adjacent to the WOTUS discharges for the operation of project specific heavy machinery. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO,

Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. The Corps is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to occur in the project area. Although, the project occurs within the range of the nonessential experimental population of wood bison (*Bison bison athabasca*).

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and would not jeopardize the continued existence of the wood bison.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is not in the vicinity of, or within mapped EFH. Therefore, we have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Corps, Alaska District, on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This public notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the

general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

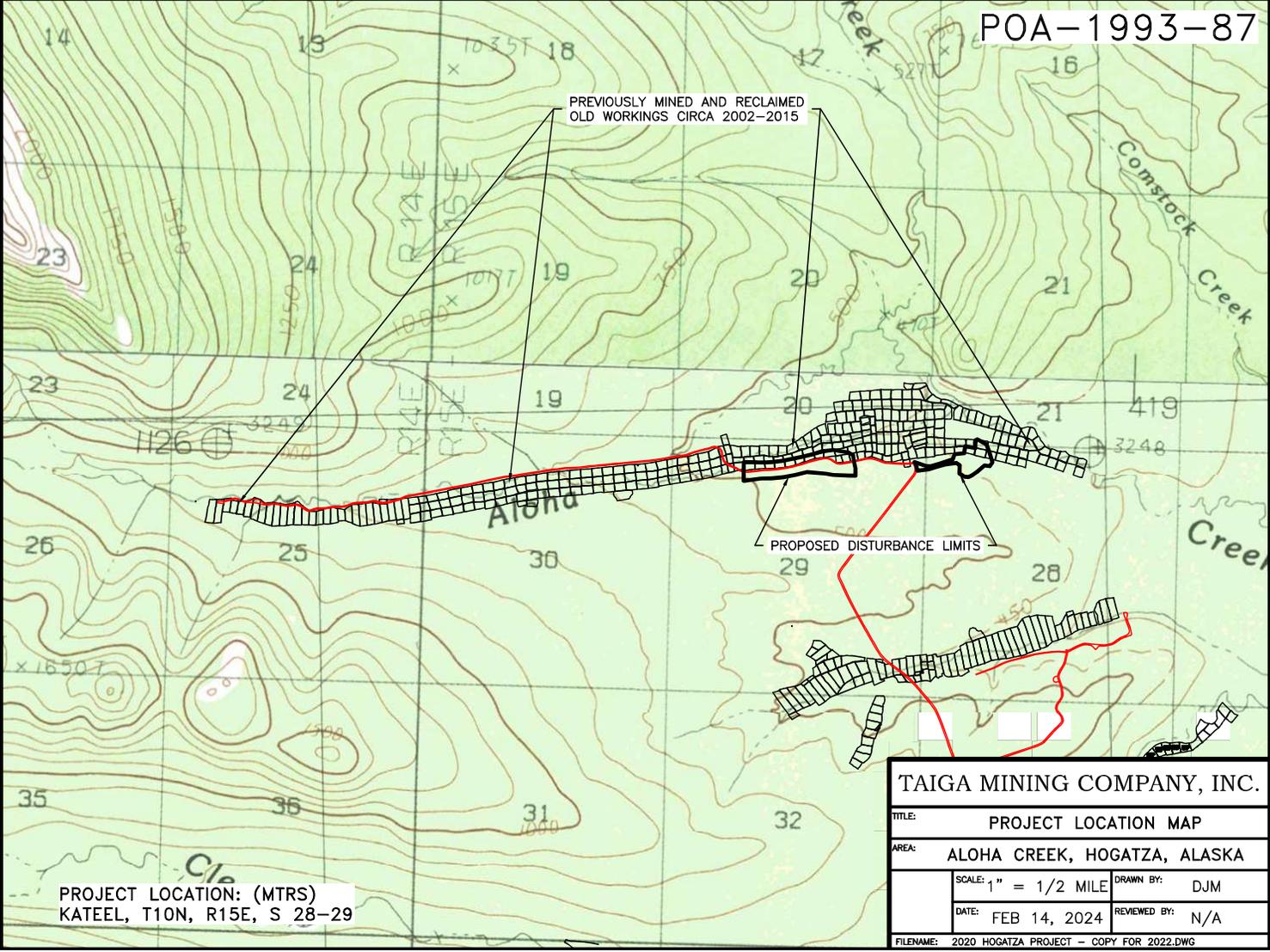
(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps

Enclosures

POA-1993-87



PROJECT LOCATION: (MTRS)
KATEEL, T10N, R15E, S 28-29

POA-1993-87

PREVIOUSLY MINED AND RECLAIMED
OLD WORKINGS CIRCA 2007

WETLAND AREA DISTURBED
BY THIS PROJECT

RECLAIMED SETTLING/RECYCLE POND
CONSTRUCTED 2007
RECLAIMED 2008

PROPOSED DISTURBANCE LIMITS

TOTAL DISTURBANCE: 9.8 ACRES
WETLAND ACRES: 3.9 ACRES

PHOTO DATE: SEPT. 18, 2023

TAIGA MINING COMPANY, INC.

TITLE:	PROPOSED DISTURBANCE	
AREA:	RIGHT LIMIT BELOW 15	
SCALE:	1" = 200'	DRAWN BY: DJM
DATE:	FEB 14, 2024	REVIEWED BY: N/A
FILENAME:	2020 HOGATZA PROJECT - COPY FOR 2022.DWG	

POA-1993-87

WETLAND AREAS DISTURBED BY THIS PROJECT

PREVIOUSLY MINED AND RECLAIMED OLD WORKINGS CIRCA 2003

PROPOSED DISTURBANCE LIMITS

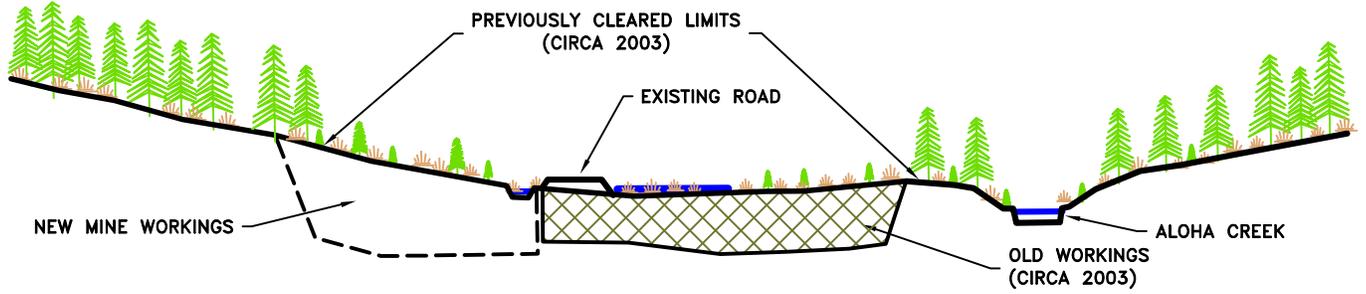
TOTAL DISTURBANCE: 21.0 ACRES
WETLAND ACRES: 7.5 ACRES

PHOTO DATE: SEPT. 18, 2023

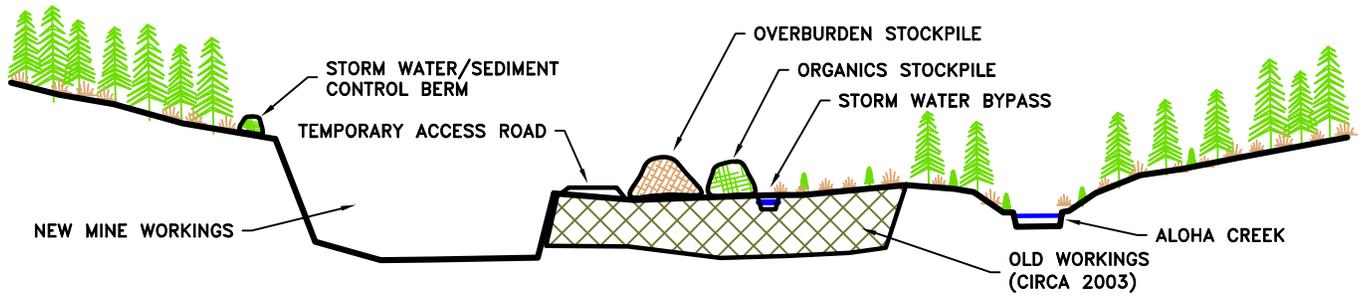
TAIGA MINING COMPANY, INC.

TITLE:	PROPOSED DISTURBANCE	
AREA:	RIGHT LIMIT: LITTLE S-CURVES	
SCALE:	1" = 250'	DRAWN BY: DJM
DATE:	FEB 14, 2024	REVIEWED BY: N/A
FILENAME:	2020 HOGATZA PROJECT - COPY FOR 2022.DWG	

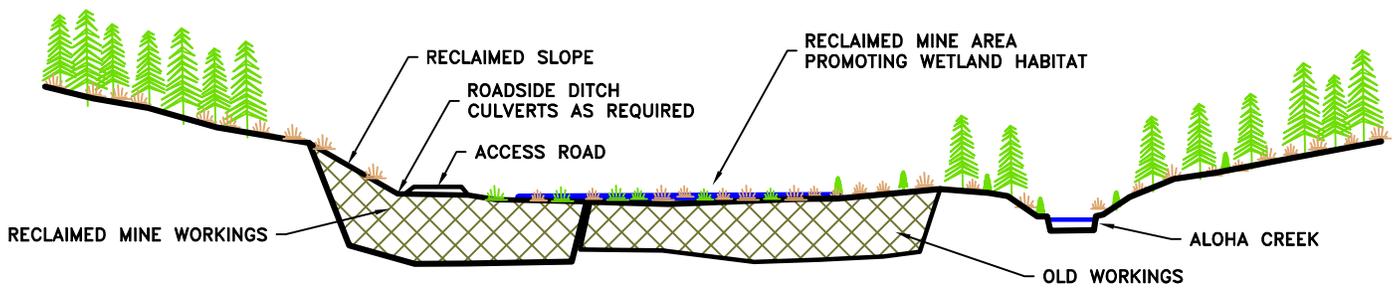
EXISTING CONDITIONS / MINE PLAN



DURING MINING ACTIVITIES



RECLAMATION PLAN



TAIGA MINING COMPANY, INC.

TITLE:		TYP MINE SECTIONS	
AREA:		POA-1993-87, ALOHA CREEK	
SCALE:	NO SCALE	DRAWN BY:	DJM
DATE:	MAR 7, 2024	REVIEWED BY:	RK
FILENAME: TYPICAL SECTIONS ALOHA (USACE) 2024.DWG			